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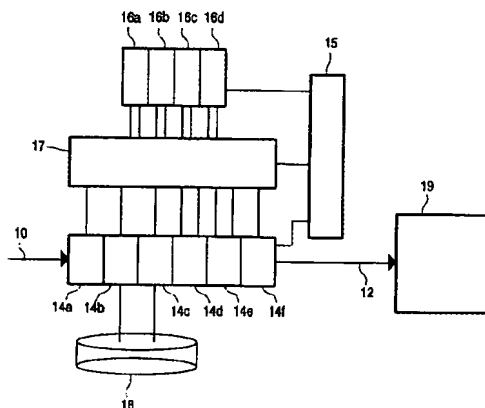
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(54) Title: VIDEO VIEWING SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: An outgoing video stream is produced in a plurality of video modes, including a live play mode in which an input task (20) is coupled to a decoding task (22), a pause mode in which the input task (20) is coupled to a recording task (24), and a time-shift mode in which the input task (20) is coupled to the recording task (24) and a replay task (26) is coupled to the decoding task (22). In different modes, different subsets of the tasks (20, 22, 24, 26) or all of the tasks (20, 22, 24, 26) are active. FIFO communication buffers (16a-d) are used to communicate between the tasks (20, 22, 24, 26). Switching between the video modes is realized by reassigning connections of tasks (20, 22, 24, 26) to respective ones of the communication buffers (16a-d), keeping previous data in the reassigned FIFO communication buffers (16a-d). Tasks (20, 22, 24, 26) that are needed before and after a switch are kept continuously active, so that they continue to read from or write to the FIFO communication buffers (16a-d) to which they are connected. Reassignment of connections to communication buffers (16a-d) is preferably limited to points of time at transitions between transfer of closed Groups Of Pictures in the video streams.

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